

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, and 17 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2, with a change in wording to make the wording closer to paragraph [0016] of the application.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Deimling (US 6339332). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, with a change of wording to make the wording closer to paragraph [0016] of the application. For at least this reason, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Deimling.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hargreaves et al.. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, with a change of wording to make the wording closer to paragraph [0016] of the application. For at least this reason, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Hargreaves et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 2-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2, which has been canceled, so that claim 1 is equivalent to the original claim 2, with a change of wording to make the wording closer to paragraph [0016] of the application, if claim 2 was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least this reason, claim 1, as amended, should be allowed.

Claims 3-20 are dependent on claim 1, and for at least this reason should be allowed.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (408) 255-8001.

Respectfully submitted,
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